

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE ROBBINS

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicole Robbins of Nevada: mother, concerned citizen, and modern-day crime-fighter. On July 13th, Ms. Robbins observed a series of events unfold outside her apartment complex involving what appeared to be an attempted kidnapping of a five year old girl by an intoxicated, convicted Tier 2 sex offender. The man, calling himself "Pastor Tree", attempted to lure the girl away with him, promising to take her to a store. Thankfully the little girl was smart enough to alert her mother, who subsequently called the police, after the man went to retrieve his car. The boyfriend of the mother confronted the man upon his return for the girl. During this confrontation, the man started to drive away.

Although police were en route, this man had already begun to flee. Realizing the potential getaway, Ms. Robbins claimed that "something made her go inside her home and grab her car keys and cell phone." A mother of two young sons herself, Ms. Robbins bravely followed this attempted kidnapper for four miles, in contact with police the entire way providing details to help in his apprehension. When stopped by police, the man was found to be driving with a blood-alcohol limit more than twice the legal limit, and was subsequently arrested on suspicion of first-degree kidnapping and child luring.

Ms. Robbins' actions should be commended in that not only did she aid local authorities by providing accurate and detailed information on a fleeing suspect, but she was wise enough in exercising restraint by not interfering before his capture. For her efforts, Ms. Robbins was honored by Reno police by receiving a citizen commendation certificate and medal, a prestigious award presented only once a year.

Ms. Robbins stands as an example to all future kidnappers and child molesters that the people of Nevada are serious about protecting their children. I would like to conclude by addressing the next child molester or kidnapper that comes to Nevada with an intention to commit a crime against a child. Know that we are watching our children with you, protecting our children from you, and in cases like Ms. Robbins, even helping local authorities arrest you.

TRIBUTE TO SHAWN RICHARD TALLANT

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Shawn Richard Tallant who has served our country with bravery and distinction as a member of the United States Navy. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Captain Tallant retired from the Navy on July 15, 2005 after 27 years of distinguished service.

Captain Tallant was Commanding Officer of the USS *Nashville*, which participated in Oper-

ation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition, the USS *Nashville*, under Captain Tallant's command, was one of three ships sent to conduct humanitarian operations under Joint Task Force Liberia.

Like all citizens of Tennessee, I am proud of the historical importance of these events and how one of our namesake ships was critical to the success of this Nation's peacekeeping efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Liberia. Captain Tallant's leadership was integral to the *Nashville's* contributions.

Prior to his service on the *Nashville*, Captain Tallant was the Executive Officer on the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. Today, Captain Tallant has joined the private sector involved in the design of future nuclear aircraft carriers.

Captain Tallant is an example of the courage and commitment of our military and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Tallant for his meritorious and distinguished service to his fellow sailors and our Nation.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our foremothers by introducing the National Women's Rights History Project Act.

In contemporary American society, women enjoy rights to education, wages, and property ownership. However, it was only 85 years ago that women were finally granted the right to vote. Yet few Americans have any real knowledge of the long struggle to obtain the rights that we take for granted today. The National Women's Rights History Project Act will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female heroes that fought tirelessly to secure these rights.

On July 19, 1848, a group of activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Mary Ann M'Clintock convened the first Women's Rights Convention at Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. The Women's Rights Convention heralded the beginning of a 72-year struggle for suffrage. During the Convention, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, which was drafted to mirror the Declaration of Independence and set out such radical notions like women's freedom to own property, receive an education, and file for divorce.

In 1851, a second women's rights convention was held in Akron, Ohio. It was at this convention that Sojourner Truth delivered the famous "Ain't I A Woman?" speech. The woman's suffrage movement, however, was not solely limited to organized conventions. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was formed.

Susan B. Anthony also established the Equal Rights Association to refute ideas that women were inferior to men and fight for a woman's right to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony and other women voted in the presidential election, and were arrested and fined for illegal voting. At her trial, which attracted

nationwide attention, Susan B. Anthony made a speech that ended with the slogan "Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God". She also campaigned for the rights of women to own property, to keep their own earnings, and to have custody of their children. I am especially proud that it was in Rochester, New York that Susan B. Anthony fought so hard for the rights that women throughout this country rely on today. In fact, in 1900, she persuaded the University of Rochester, in my Congressional District, to admit women.

In the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women's suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch. During this era, the Women's Rights movement increased its momentum by organizing marches, pickets and other protests. Suffragette Alice Paul and other activists began chaining themselves to the White House fence and participating in hunger strikes to gain the attention of Congress.

The struggle for women's suffrage was not easy, and oftentimes it was made more difficult as a consequence of public misinformation and fear. Consider these remarks which, in 1912, appeared in the New York Times under the title, "The Uprising of Women":

"The vote will secure to woman no new privilege that she either deserves or requires . . . Women will get the vote and play havoc with it for themselves and society, if men are not wise and firm enough and it may as well be said, masculine enough, to prevent them."

If by playing havoc, the New York Times meant becoming the single most sought after voting block in the country that often determines the outcome of elections, I guess they were right.

Because of the persistent dedication of Susan B. Anthony and other remarkable leaders, women persevered. Although Susan B. Anthony was not alive to see it, the efforts of the women's rights struggle came to fruition when the Nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was finally passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920.

We have clearly come a long way in 85 years—and we still have a long way to go. We must work to continue the momentum that started in Seneca Falls, by not only ensuring that all women vote, but that they do so with an understanding of the long fight to obtain this right and with a sense of responsibility to do their part in the struggle for women's equality.

To honor these important women, the National Women's Rights History Project Act will establish a trail route linking sites significant to the struggle for women's suffrage and civil rights. It also will expand the current National Register travel itinerary website, "Places Where Women Made History," to include additional historic sites. Finally, this bill will require the Department of Interior to establish a partnership-based network to offer financial and technical assistance for interpretive and educational program development of national women's rights history.

The women of this country have fought tirelessly to achieve equitable rights for our grandmothers, our mothers, ourselves, and our daughters. It is my hope that this bill will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female leaders who struggled to secure these rights.